

## TILLMAN ANSWERS BLEASE.

## SENATOR'S REPLY TO MESSAGE READ IN SENATE AND HOUSE.

Tillman Makes Vigorous Retort to Governor Blease's Attack and Reviews Events of Campaign Leading up to Publication of Letter That Enraged Blease.

To the General Assembly of South Carolina: Gentlemen:

I have just read Governor Blease's message sent to your honorable body yesterday, and have been informed that both houses did me the justice to order publication in its Journal to be suspended until my reply could go along with it. For this consideration, please accept my thanks.

What Governor Blease's motives were are very evident in the message. He desires to continue the bitterness engendered last summer; and wishes to be revenged on me; but the primary object he has in view is to keep the minds of the people stirred up and not allow the waters to clear sufficiently to let them see what sort of man he really is. Catline among the Romans, and Aaron Burr among the Americans, are the only other men I have ever read of who were equal to Blease in bamboozling the people. He has persuaded thousands of good South Carolinians, honorable, clean, patriotic citizens, into believing that he is their best friend and that Tillman's mantle has fallen on his shoulders. He is a past master in the arts of a demagogue. He knows full well when the angry passions of the masses are aroused, they lose their reason. He desires to come to the senate, as he boasted he would do at Richmond in December last, and feels it obligatory on him to aggravate conditions in South Carolina as much as possible. Whether this is the right way to electioneer or not will be shown by the result of the next senatorial primary. If the South Carolina newspapers do not help him by abuse and misrepresentation, he will never get here.

Five charges against me boiled down.

1. With writing "Secret letters stabbing him in the back."
2. Hypocrisy.
3. With conspiring with W. E. Gonzales.
4. Jealousy.
5. Feebleness of mind.
6. Having lent myself, which could only be expected of an imbecile to sign my name to an article dictated by someone else whom he designated as "A statesman without a job," and "This astute Big Ex."

I will take the charges up serially:

If ever a man wanted to be hands off in a political contest, I was that man last summer. Time and again I was importuned to take a hand and to come out for law and order and decency. But I steadfastly refused. I received hundreds of letters first and last urging me with intense earnestness to come out and announce my preference as between the candidates who were running for governor. But I was unwilling to do so.

After Mr. Sims wrote me and made the appeal that I should answer certain inquiries which he propounded in defense of Tillmanism, I wrote him the letter I did. Immediately a phrase in it was seized on by the newspapers and proclaimed that I had come out for Judge Jones. The headlines mainly were used to deceive the people and misrepresent me. I felt called on to take notice of this and wrote the article of August 12, which Governor Blease quotes.

I have the original letters at Trenton to the evidence going to show that Governor Blease and certain of his friends were in a conspiracy, the friends to write me pretending to be my friends, draw me out as to my attitude toward him, and then show him the letters. Otherwise, how did he come into possession of so many of my letters marked "personal and confidential?"

I have the original letters at Trenton to show that perhaps one hundred men wrote me along the same lines. These letters came thick and fast and my answers were always marked "personal." It is very evident that Blease has seen many of my letters which were marked personal and the recipient asked not to show them to anyone. Thus it can be seen whether they were secret or not. Some of those correspondents who were Blease's friends hastened to show them or to send him copies. They were in no way the secret letters he would have the people believe, but letters which ought to have been secret as far as the public was concerned and so far as Blease himself was concerned.

I am not concerned about the Blease conspiracy with his friends as much as I am about clearing myself of the charge of hypocrisy, and of writing secret letters for the purpose of stabbing him in the back.

The charge of hypocrisy can best be answered by pointing to my public and private life. If there is any vice

in human beings that I despise, it is hypocrisy and double-dealing. It is next to cowardice, the most despicable of human traits.

Governor Blease stresses the point of secret letters, and, with great cunning, picks out sentences from private letters which I had written to my friends, or men who represented themselves as my friends, to prove that I was not frank. He stresses the fact that Mr. Sims was not his friend and is delighted to find I had written one letter to a man not a Bleasite. I do not believe many people in South Carolina will accept his theory that I am a hypocrite and a double-dealer, because in writing personal letters and marking them "confidential," I explained to those men who were Blease friends and who claimed to be my friends what my real opinions were. Because I said I would be hands off did not mean, nor is it reasonable to claim that it meant, I would be dumb.

3. The conspiracy with W. E. Gonzales is not conceivable or believable by anyone except a man who in his desperation, made the charge in order to fire the hearts of his followers. The people of South Carolina well understand the relations between the Gonzales brothers and the Tillmans. The feud is of long standing and all well informed people know what provocation the Tillmans have had and with what relentless energy and with what ability the Gonzales brothers have prosecuted their side of it. I do not wish to stir the embers of this feud again, and I have no such purpose in calling attention to this long standing quarrel. GOVERNOR BLEASE KNOWS THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE WHEN HE WROTE THIS DODGER LAST AUGUST, that I had entered into any conspiracy whatever with W. E. Gonzales. I have been told that the Gonzales brothers voted for me in the primary last August. Whether this is so or not, I do not know and do not care. But I know that I never saw Pat McGowan or read Gonzales' private telegrams to him which some of Blease's friends stole off the wire; and if I had it would not have influenced me at all.

Right here, I will ask Governor Blease to answer point blank, how did he get copies of Gonzales' telegrams to McGowan? He is such a stickler for the forms of honesty in others, will he honor bright and tell us who stole them?

I know and assert on my honor that I alone wrote the Ferguson letter and that no one had anything to do with it, or anything else I have written or signed.

The following statement has just been handed me by A. M. Carpenter, of Anderson, South Carolina, telling how the Ferguson letter came to be given out and how the statement that accompanied it was made up for the press:

About 6 o'clock in the afternoon of August 22, 1912, I met Senator and Mrs. Tillman at the north entrance to the capitol building. They had started for home, and had stopped and were talking to J. M. Baker, one of the officers of the senate. Senator Tillman stopped me and said he wanted to ask my advice. He stated that at the beginning of the gubernatorial campaign in South Carolina he had declared he would take no part in it, and had tried to follow that course, but that during the two or three weeks just previous he had received a number of letters from people in the State whom he thought to be his friends, asking his opinion of Jones and Blease, and that he replied to these letters frankly, that in each case he had made it plain to his correspondent that he was writing in confidence, but he had found that in some cases his confidence had been betrayed, that the letters were being misinterpreted, and that he had been placed in the position of doing secretly things he was afraid to do openly. He said he had been placed in a false position before his friends and his enemies, and that he felt that he ought to give out a newspaper statement explaining his position fully. Mrs. Tillman said she did not want him to give out the statement, and he said he would not do anything against her wishes, but he felt very strongly that he should make a public statement, in justice to himself and to his friends in the State. We discussed the matter for some little time, and Senator Tillman finally said he would not decide at the moment what he would do, but invited Mr. Baker and myself to come to his rooms at the Dewey Hotel that night, when he would have the matter fully made up.

I went to the Dewey Hotel about 8 o'clock that night, and found in Senator Tillman's room Mr. Baker, T. H. Daniel, of the Spartanburg Herald, and Mr. Wyche, Senator Tillman's stenographer. Mr. Murray, of the News and Courier, came in a little while later. After a few minutes of general conversation Senator Tillman told us he had decided to give out a statement, and began dictating it to his stenographer. The dictation occupied perhaps fifteen or twenty minutes. During the time of it Senator Tillman stopped once or twice to weigh a sentence, but he finished it without interruption and without suggestion from anyone present. After taking the statement in shorthand, Mr. Wyche wrote it out on a typewriter and gave it to Senator Tillman, who read it aloud to us. He made, as I remember, but one change in the draft, and that was a minor one, in the phrasing of a sentence. He then told his stenographer to give copies of it to the different newspaper men.

After getting through with this Senator Tillman drew a long breath and then laughed. "I feel that I have simply discharged a duty," he said, "and now I feel better. I am off the fence."

I walked from the Dewey Hotel to F street in company with Mr. Daniel and Mr. Murray. They had been impressed, as I had been, with Senator Tillman's force in dictating the statement. One of us remarked that while Senator Tillman had had a severe illness it had not impaired the vigor of his intellect, and this was heartily agreed to by the others. Senator Tillman's statement was filed in the telegraph office on F street for transmission to the South Carolina papers that night. I know that Senator Tillman gave out the statement against the advice of Mrs. Tillman and some of his closest friends, and certainly it was dictated when nobody was present except those mentioned above, and without suggestions of any kind from any of them.

(Signed) A. M. Carpenter.  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 17, 1912.

The South Carolina newspapers had hounded Governor Blease so continuously during the campaign, had been so unfair in their opposition, that the people of the state had lost absolutely all faith in their honesty or truthfulness. When the statement appeared in the newspapers Saturday morning, I received a number of telegrams asking if it was authentic. Many of my friends had been misled by Governor Blease to that point where they doubted not only the newspapers, but also doubted me.

The fourth charge of jealousy is so ridiculous that I cannot bring myself to consider it seriously. Ben Tillman jealous of Cole Blease! It is unthinkable, and, were I to answer it seriously, I would be convicted in the minds of all sensible people of South Carolina of the next charge:

5. Feebleness of mind. Whether my mind is feeble or not the people will judge for themselves. I am willing to leave it to any jury in South Carolina, Bleasites or others, whether Ben Tillman is feeble-minded or Cole Blease crazy.

The Blease circular, issued on August 25th, which he republishes in the message, says—and he prints it in capitals—"I have never seen the Ferguson letter, and did not know what was in it until I saw it in the newspapers, and when Gonzales says I did, and that 'Bleas will fight Tillman,' he wired what was willfully untrue."

Notwithstanding Governor Blease's denials, I know that he did fight me in more counties than one and that his trusted lieutenants were very active in marshaling his followers, many of them once my best friends, to vote against me in the primary. News to this effect came to me from all over the state, and the vote shows it. I have no doubt whatever that the Ferguson letter caused me to lose 35,000 votes, while it gained me about 10,000. This was what I expected when I gave it out but I could not remain quiet after my confidence had been so betrayed. The "midnight stab" of which he complains—meaning the lateness in the campaign when the letter was given out—was attributable to my wife's influence. She begged me to stand by my oft-repeated promise to remain hands-off.

I was elected in spite of him, and he was elected in spite of me. I got more votes than he did and feel that I am a better representative of the state than he will ever be; was a better governor than he has made; and have made a better senator than he can possibly make.

While what he says about the May convention and the Southern Railway lawyers may be true, he could not wriggle away from the fact that Ben Abney lives in the executive mansion although it is the people's house and not a hotel. I am informed that his salary is greater than all other South Carolina highway lawyers in this state. He is the real octopus which strangles the legislature and persuades it to do his bidding, and has conferences with Blease whenever he sees fit.

Governor Blease asks me specifically to say why I "dragged in the names" of Colonel Abney and Hon. Sam J. Nicholls, and if I did so voluntarily," etc. I certainly did, and I ask him again to explain why no one in South Carolina can get a pardon unless he applies to some of Blease's lawyer friends. Unless all information

obtainable by me is false, no man in South Carolina need present an application for pardon, unless one of his pardon managers has received a fee for it.

Bleas is too good a lawyer to think or believe that Ferguson's affidavit will fool anybody into believing that he had never seen my letter to Ferguson. While I know nothing about Ferguson, and never saw him, I do not believe he swears to the exact truth. A man can lie by suppressing the truth as well as by telling it directly, and a man with an easy conscience can swear to almost anything.

While I am discussing railroad lawyers and their influence on the South Carolina general assembly, it is just as well that I should make public all that I said on the subject Governor Blease has quoted only a part of it. In a letter I wrote to P. B. Bailey, at Blaney, South Carolina, August 16th, replying to a resolution adopted by the Bleas Club at that place relative to my letter to Mr. Sims, I said:

"That the railroads are getting a hold in our state again, I know. The legislature ought to compel the railroads to give us the right, on any system of roads anywhere in the state to carry as many people as we want to on the same mileage as is done in the North. But Ben Abney and the railroad attorneys in the legislature have been too venal and corrupt to protect the people against the railroads, and as I have already pointed out, Bleas is in closer touch with them than Jones; and Bleas is on record as saying 'the Southern Railway will have a friend in me if elected.'"

I think it well that the people of the state and the general assembly should know what I think about the influence the railroads have exerted in the legislature.

The fifth charge, of having lent myself to signing my name to an article prepared by someone else, whom he designates as a "statesman without a job," and this "astute big Ex," meaning thereby, I presume, ex-Gov. John Gary Evans, is shown to be false by the following affidavit from a son of Hon. C. T. Wyche, of Spartanburg:

"Washington City,  
"District of Columbia.

"Personally appeared before me, C. G. Wyche, who, on oath, makes the following statement: I am a stenographer in Senator Tillman's office, and he dictated the letter to Harrison Ferguson, of Spartanburg, S. C., to me. No one was in the office except Senator Tillman and myself, as well as I remember, and I know that no one else had anything to do with its dictation to me.

"(Signed) C. G. WYCHE.

"Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of January, A. D. 1913.

"R. B. NIXON,  
"Notary Public."

Governor Blease's charges that I allowed some one, "this astute big Ex," to dictate to me makes me willing to ask him if Colonel Abney assisted him in writing this message.

His anxiety about honesty is pathetic and reminds me of 'Hudibras' couplet:

"No thief ever felt the halter draw  
With good opinion of the law."

Being a low type of man himself, he does not realize and cannot conceive how anyone else can be honorable, clean and above-board.

I will say in conclusion that I have read the bill introduced by Mr. Rembert and heartily approve of it. I hope it will become a law, for it is nothing more than just that a newspaper should give a citizen who is attacked in its columns the opportunity to reply through the same channel.

B. R. Tillman.

## MUST OBEY ORDINANCES.

## Automobilists and Hackmen Must Have Lights on Vehicles.

Affairs have been going pretty hard of late with the hackmen who have failed to conform to ordinances passed by council sometime ago, for both Tuesday and Wednesday a number of them were haled before the Recorder for violations of the ordinances and were fined for their negligence. The police are also on the scent of the automobilists, and the owners of cars will have to be careful in future and see that lights are properly attached to their cars, or they too will get into the toils of the law.

Tuesday a number of hackmen were charged with soliciting trade, while Wednesday they were charged before the Recorder with failing to have the proper lights attached to their vehicles and the number of their hacks placed where it could be seen. There were quite a number up both days and the fines will make them more careful in future.

The Civic League Library has kindly consented to endeavor to get any book that any of its subscribers desire. All that the person has to do is to let the librarian know what book is wanted.

## SERVICE FIRST, THEN POLITICS

## WILSON OUTLINES HIS PROBABLE COURSE IN APPOINTING OFFICIALS.

Declines Request of New Jersey Men That Democrat be Named to Succeed Incumbent, Who is a Republican.

Trenton, Jan. 21.—Efficiency in public service and the merit system more than partisan politics will be the basis upon which President-elect Wilson will make appointments to office, he indicated today.

Gov. Wilson had occasion to declare himself in this connection when a delegation of 30 men representing various labor interests made an earnest plea for the appointment of a Democrat to fill the State commission of labor now held by a Republican.

John T. Cosgrove, a Democrat and labor leader, was urged for the position to succeed Col. T. Lewis Bryant, incumbent, who was appointed by a Republican governor.

The president-elect told the delegation he recognized the force of their argument that labor should be represented in the government by one who knows its interests, but he saw no reason to displace Col. Bryant who had performed his duties faithfully and efficiently.

The governor declared himself in a speech. He said:

"Public office is not worth anything if an entirely satisfactory fulfillment of the duties of the office does not entitle a man to consideration for reappointment. If men are to know that a mere change of administration is to empty an office, no matter how they have deserved to be reappointed, there is not anything of justice or public right left. I feel to the full extent the argument you have made in favor of Mr. Cosgrove, but I have not a clean slate to write on. If we were creating this office, your arguments would be different.

"I do not need to say to this company that I entirely sympathize with the aspirations of labor and that I entirely recognize the rights of labor, but Col. Bryant has made good, and I am bound to consider his claims. I would be ashamed of myself if I did not.

"Would it not be justice and mercy to appoint a labor man? Would it not be graceful?" pleaded Samuel Botterill, spokesman for the delegation.

"Gracefulness is easy and justice is hard," sighed the governor, and the discussion was ended.

The colloquy took place in the big ante-room just outside of the governor's office. Once Mr. Botterill remarked that Mr. Cosgrove's appointment might not be exactly acceptable to the manufacturers and employers.

"Oh, class opposition does not affect me one way or another," quickly interrupted the governor.

Later in the day another delegation of labor men appeared in Mr. Bryant's behalf. Incidentally Gov. Wilson set forth in the day that he recognized the right of labor organizations to be represented in the government and indicated that the creation of a national department of labor might follow that course.

Among the governor's callers today was Representative-elect L. W. Beakes of Michigan. Mr. Beakes outlined conditions in Michigan, stating that the Democratic organization had not exerted itself to its fullest powers to obtain the election of a Democratic United States senator.

National Chairman William F. McCombs will be here Thursday for a conference with the governor.

## ELECTRIC LIGHT WITHOUT HEAT.

## French Scientist Gives Details of Remarkable Discovery.

Paris, France, Jan. 20.—M. Dussaud, a French scientist, who has discovered a means for the production of what he terms "cold light," today made public some details of his discovery, which, it is thought, may revolutionize electric lighting.

Starting on the principle that rest is as essential to matter as to animal organism, he has constructed an electric lamp in which the light is concentrated on a single point by filaments, working successively; thence the light is projected through a lens magnifying a thousandfold. Thus he has succeeded in concentrating a 2,000-candle-power light on one point and in passing 32 volts into an 8-volt lamp, which with the ordinary light, would burst.

Experiments with this lamp have established that the new light is absolutely without danger, as no heat is given off and it requires a hundred times less current than the ordinary lamp. It can be worked by a tiny battery or sufficient motive power can be obtained from a jet of water from an ordinary faucet or a squirrel turning a gear.

The light, it is said, offers great advantages in photography, as its photogenic power is four times that of the magnesium flashlight.

## CLAREMONT OPENS ON FIRST.

## WORK ON BUILDING RAPIDLY NEARING COMPLETION.

Chas. E. Whitted of North Carolina to Manage New Hostelry; Furniture and Fixtures Being Installed; Will Be Run on European Plan.

The Claremont Hotel, Sumter's new four story building containing seventy-seven guest rooms, will be opened for business February 1st and will thereafter do a general hotel business for the benefit of the traveling men and all visitors to Sumter. This information was given to an item reporter Thursday by Mr. Charles F. Whitted of Weldon, N. C., who will manage the Claremont Hotel when it is opened.

Mr. Whitted arrived in the city Thursday morning and will be here for a couple of days. He will return next week, before the first, to look after the arrangements preparatory to opening the hotel and to see that everything is in proper shape at the opening.

Mr. Whitted stated that he thought the work on and in the building might be completed a day or two before the first, but that the formal opening would not take place until the first, as the interim would be necessary in getting things in shape. He would have charge of the management of the hotel and he would send to Sumter a force of clerks, cooks and waiters from North Carolina. The day clerk will be Mr. G. E. Lavander, who has formerly served at the Rick's Hotel at Rocky Mount. Mr. R. E. Moore, formerly of the Terminal Hotel, Maryland, will act as night clerk and Mr. H. M. Swann of Charlotte will be steward of the hotel.

The heating, lighting, water and plumbing systems have been completed some time and at present a force of workmen are very busily engaged in installing the furniture in the building and putting in the fixtures which have not yet been installed.

The lobby of the hotel is at present crowded with furniture and bedding for the rooms. In the three upper floors carpets have already been laid and in the two upper floors the beds and bedding have been placed in the rooms, although they are not yet put together. The rooms will all be furnished exactly alike with brass beds and mahogany furniture. Hot and cold water, electric lights and telephones are provided for every room. The telephone system has been completed on the two upper stories, and the workmen are now engaged in installing telephones in the other two floors. The furnishings are all supplied by Wannamaker's, of Philadelphia and three men have been sent on to see that they are installed properly.

The electric elevator for passengers has not yet been completed, but workmen are employed getting it in shape as rapidly as possible and it will be ready for service in a few days. The baggage elevator will also be ready soon. On the ground floor there is still considerable painting to be done. Painters are now engaged in finishing up this part of their work.

Mr. Whitted stated that the hotel would be run on the European plan, as this plan was found to be very much more agreeable to the hotel manager and the guests of the hotels. He would not only have charge of this hotel, but would continue to manage the hotel at Weldon, which he is now running, and he would divide his time between the two places. Later, as soon as another hotel which was being erected in Durham by the Messrs. Paschal was completed, he would also take charge of it also.

Mr. J. E. King of this city will have charge of the cigar and news stands.

## FIRST NATIONAL OFFICERS.

## Old Board of Directors Re-elected, as are Former Officers.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the First National Bank of Sumter was held at the bank on Tuesday, January 14th.

The annual report of the bank indicated a very healthy and satisfactory condition, the results of the year being fully up to those of previous years with this old institution.

The retiring Board of Directors was unanimously re-elected, to wit:

Neill O'Donnell, R. D. Lee, E. P. Ricker, H. D. Barnett, Geo. D. Shore, Archie China, Geo. F. Epperson, W. B. Upshur.

At the subsequent meeting of the Directors the old officers were re-elected. These are: Neill O'Donnell, President; R. D. Lee, Vice-president; J. L. McCallum, Cashier.

The Claremont Hotel will really open on February 1st.

The game of basket ball Wednesday evening attracted a good crowd of spectators who seemed much pleased with the exhibition of this new game in Sumter. The team captained by Lord won the game by the score of 27 to 21.